

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus to net a food product in shirred tubular casings, comprising:

a filling horn adapted to receive extruded food products and having an outside diameter on which a tubular casing having a filled diameter has been shirred, said outside diameter being less than said filled diameter; and,

a shir housing having a diameter greater than said outside diameter of said filling horn and located coaxially to said filling horn; and

a netting tube releasably attachable to said shir housing and on which tubular netting having a diameter less than said filled diameter of said tubular casing has been rucked, said netting tube having a diameter intermediate to said outside diameter of said filling horn and said diameter of said shir housing.

~~whereby food products extruded into said filling horn expand said tubular casing against said netting to create a dimpled appearance in the food product.~~

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a clipper.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said tubular casing is edible.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said tubular casing is dyed.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said tubular casing is dyed in a pattern.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said tubular casing further comprises flavoring.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said flavoring comprises smoke flavoring.

8. (Currently amended) A method of preparing food products in netted tubular casings, comprising:

shirring tubular casing having a filled diameter on a filling horn having an outside diameter, said outside diameter being less than said filled diameter;

placing said filling horn in a shir housing having an inside diameter greater than said outside diameter of said filling horn;

rucking a tubular netting having a diameter less than said filled diameter of said filling horn onto a netting tube, said netting tube having a diameter intermediate to said outside diameter of said filling horn and said inside diameter of said shir housing;

attaching said netting tube to said housing;

extruding food products through said filling horn, whereby the food products expand said tubular casing against said netting to create a dimpled appearance in the food product.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising a clipper.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said tubular casing is edible.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said tubular casing is dyed.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said tubular casing is dyed in a pattern.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said tubular casing further comprises flavoring.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said flavoring comprises smoke flavoring.